

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5455

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14485

BERLIN FOR CAB CHAIRMAN ROBSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US RESPONSE TO UK UNILATERAL ACTIONS

REF: STATE 226225

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL, STYLES ADVISED ROGERS OF UK DOT BY TELEPHONE TUESDAY MORNING THAT US POSITION ON UNILATERAL BRITISH ACTIONS HAD AGAIN BEEN REVIEWED AT HIGH LEVEL AND THAT HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT POSITION REMAINED SAME. STYLES REVIEWED US POSITION AS SET FORTH PARAS 1 AND 2 REFTEL. WE ALSO URGED FURTHER UK CONSIDERATION OF "COMPROMISE" CAPACITY LEVELS AT MIAMI AND CHICAGO. COUPLED WITH UK ASSURANCES OF NO FURTHER UNILATERAL ACTIONS. LASTLY, STYLES EXPLAINED ISSUANCE PART 213 ORDER AND PURPOSE OF WITHHOLDING IT FROM PUBLIC RELEASE UNTIL FRIDAY.

2. ROGERS ASKED WHAT MODERATE US RETALIATION MEANT AND SUGGESTED THAT, IF IT WERE "REASONABLE AND EVEN-HANDED," UK MIGHT BE WILLING ACQUIESE IN IT. STYLES SAID HE COULD NOT SAY AND ASKED IN TURN WHETHER ROGERS HAD SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. HE DID NOT, BUT DID SAY THAT ONLY CIRCUM-
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STANCE UNDER WHICH HE WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE ASSURANCES

OF NO FURTHER UNILATERAL ACTIONS WHILE AGREEMENT BEING
RENEGOTIATED WAS US ACQUIESCENCE IN UK UNILATERAL ACTIONS.
STYLES SAID THIS APPROACH HAD BEEN REJECTED BY WASHINGTON.

3. STYLES PRESSED ROGERS TO CONSIDER COMPROMISE CAPACITY
LEVELS APPROACH FURTHER SINCE IT HELD BEST PROMISE OF
AVOIDING BOTH IMMEDIATE CONFRONTATION AND SIMILAR PROBLEMS
DURING RENEGOTIATION. ROGERS SAID THAT BA REP IN TALKS
LAST WEEK HAD NO AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE A DEAL. STYLES
SAID WE UNDERSTOOD OTHERWISE AND ASKED WHETHER ROGERS
WAS REALLY SAYING THAT UK DOT WOULD REJECT DEAL EVEN IF
BA WANTED IT. HE GAVE AN EQUIVOCAL ANSWER. IN RESPONSE
FURTHER PRODDING. ROGERS SAID HE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT
CHICAGO THAN MIAMI, BUT EVEN AT MIAMI HE COULD NOT ACCEPT
ROPING OFF ON BA FLIGHTS. ROPING OFF AT MIAMI WOULD CALL
FOR COMPARABLE ROPING OFF ON TWA FLIGHTS AT LOS ANGELES
(WHERE TWA OPERATES LARGER CAPACITY AIRCRAFT THAN BA).
STYLES NOTED THAT UK HAD NEVER ASSERTED THERE WAS EXCESS
CAPACITY AT LOS ANGELES.

4. CONVERSATION WAS BRIEF BECAUSE ROGERS WAS ABOUT TO GO
TO AN ALL DAY MEETING. THERE WILL BE A FURTHER
CONVERSATION LATE IN DAY WHICH STYLES WILL REPORT BY
PHONE IF THERE ARE ANY DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, THERE IS
NO INDICATION OF CHANGE IN UK POSITION.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, IAN BROWN OF UK DOT TOLD
EMBASSY CAA HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY ROGERS TO SAY THAT
ROGERS WAS DISPOSED TO ACCEPT US PROPOSAL OF LATE JULY ON
HONG KONG-SYDNEY ISSUE BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT RESPOND TO
THAT PROPOSAL SO LONG AS US CONTINUED THREAT OF RETALIA-
TORY ACTION.

6. ALSO, FCO TOLD EMBASSY TUESDAY MORNING
THAT MESSAGE HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR CROSLAND TO SEND TO
SECRETARY ON AVIATION ISSUES.

7. IN VIEW FACT ROGERS SEEMED TO BE SOMEWHAT LESS
ADAMENT AGAINST "COMPROMISE" CAPACITY LEVELS APPROACH
THAN HE WAS LAST WEEK, STYLES RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT
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URGE SENIOR OFFICERS OF TWA AND NATIONAL TO PRESS BA
TO PUT HEAT ON UK AUTHORITIES TO ACCEPT THE COMPROMISE
APPROACH.
ARMSTRONG

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